



Department of Justice

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HOGSETT ANNOUNCES 17 YEAR SENTENCE FOR DRUG TRAFFICKER IN VINCENNES AREA

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced today that Christopher Eason, 33, of Coldwater, Mississippi, was sentenced to 17 years in prison by U.S. District Judge Jane E. Magnus-Stinson following his guilty plea to conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and related offenses. This case was the result of an investigation directed by the Evansville office of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Indiana State Police, Vincennes Police Department, Washington Police Department, and the Daviess County Sheriff's Department.

Eason directed the activities of a drug trafficking organization that operated in the Washington and Vincennes area from April, 2009 through July, 2010. Eason procured methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana from Coldwater, Mississippi and had the substances transported to Washington, Indiana. Eason and his associates then distributed the drugs in and around Washington and Vincennes. All told, the organization distributed approximately four pounds of methamphetamine, multiple kilograms of cocaine, and marijuana.

This prosecution represents the most recent suppression of an illegal drug pipeline that operates between the Route 41 corridor in southwestern Indiana and Coldwater, a town in northwestern Mississippi.

Earlier, in 2001, the DEA conducted an investigation into a methamphetamine trafficking organization led by Coldwater natives Jerome Davis and Brian Davis along the Route 41 corridor from Evansville to Washington and Vincennes. More than 40 pounds of methamphetamine were seized during that investigation. Again, in 2005, the DEA and the Vigo County Drug Task Force dismantled a cocaine trafficking organization in Terre Haute that was operated by Coldwater natives Willie Hardiman and Leslie Hardiman. All of these prior defendants received significant sentences for their roles in trafficking drugs in southwestern Indiana.

“The United States Attorney’s Office and our law enforcement partners in southwestern Indiana are committed to stopping the flow of illegal drugs into our state,” Hogsett said. “This latest conviction sends a serious message that drug trafficking in Indiana won’t be tolerated, and offenders will be punished with the full force of law.”

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Bradley A. Blackington, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Magnus-Stinson also imposed five years supervised release following Eason’s release from prison. During the period of supervised release, Eason must undergo drug testing and is subject to random searches of his person, vehicle, and residence. Eason was fined in the amount of \$1,000.

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